

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

CCTV SYSTEM

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C §119 from an application entitled *CCTV System* earlier filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office on 20 November 2000, and there duly assigned Serial No. 2000-69101 by that Office.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a closed circuit television system (hereinafter, CCTV), and more particularly to, a CCTV system having an ability of preventing channels from being mixed while pictures are being reproduced.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] As is well known in the art, a CCTV is comprised of a plurality of cameras, a video cassette recorder (VCR) recording pictures to be reproduced for viewing, and a monitor to which photographed pictures are output for viewing.

[0004] For the VCR-recording in this CCTV system, a multiplexer is used, wherein the multiplexer assigns identification (ID) information to picture signals input, in parallel, frame by frame from the video cameras connected via a plurality of channels. The multiplexer outputs the

1 picture signals with IDs in series. The picture signals multiplexed in series and the ID information
2 corresponding thereto are stored together on a storage medium. When a user selects a channel, IDs
3 are then identified to find an appropriate camera channel. When the appropriate camera channel is
4 found, a picture signal corresponding thereto is reproduced.

5 **[0005]** Where the VCR malfunctions or a video tape is deteriorated, there is a risk of reading out
6 wrong ID information. In the case of a time-laps VCR, which is a storage medium used as a long
7 time monitor, a video tape therein repeats play and stop operations for continuous, but intermittent,
8 recording. Therefore, the friction that occurs between the video tape and a head of the VCR causes
9 the tape to deteriorate. Such deterioration poses a danger of noise being included in the ID
10 information.

11 **[0006]** Furthermore, general ID information is comprised of 2 bits for 4 channels and 3 bits for
12 8 channels. The ID information is configured in a common and general way so that the number of
13 IDs that can be configured by the various possible combinations of bits is identical to the number
14 of camera channels. Noise introduced into the ID information may cause selection of a channel
15 different from the desired channel. This is called a phenomenon of making channels mixed.

16 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

17 **[0007]** Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to overcome the above-described
18 shortcoming of mixed channels in a CCTV system.

19 **[0008]** This and other objects of the present invention may be achieved by the provision of a
20 CCTV system comprising a plurality of cameras, a multiplexer allotting ID information to each of
21 the picture signals output, in parallel via a corresponding plurality of camera channels, by the
22 plurality of cameras, the ID information being represented by a plurality of bits, and a picture signal

1 storage medium for storing the picture signals and corresponding ID information serially output from
2 the multiplexer, wherein a number of bits constituting the ID information is set so that the number
3 of available IDs is twice, or more, than the number of cameras or camera channels.

4 [0009] Preferably, the bits are comprised of proper ID bits specific to each of the cameras and
5 auxiliary bits.

6 [0010] The auxiliary bits are reversed from the proper ID bits and the auxiliary bits may be
7 identical to the proper ID bits.

8 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

9 [0011] A more complete appreciation of the present invention, and many of the attendant
10 advantages thereof, will become readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by
11 reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the
12 accompanying drawings in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components,
13 wherein:

14 [0012] Fig. 1 is a control block diagram of a CCTV system;

15 [0013] Fig. 2 is a table showing combinations of proper ID bits and auxiliary bits forming ID
16 information according to the present invention; and

17 [0014] Fig. 3 is a table showing examples of combinations of bits forming ID information.

18 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

19 [0015] Herein below, the present invention will be described in more detail with reference to the
20 accompanying drawings.

21 [0016] Referring to Fig. 1, which is a control block diagram of a CCTV system, the CCTV system

1 is comprised of a plurality of cameras 1 connected through a plurality of parallel channels to a
2 multiplexer 10 for multiplexing the picture signals input in parallel from cameras 1 for output in
3 series, and a controller 12 for storing the multiplexed picture signals in a picture signal storage
4 medium 16. The CCTV system further comprises a selection part 18 by which a user is allowed to
5 input information, and a monitor 14 on which a picture signal to be displayed.

6 **[0017]** Controller 12 outputs a picture signal stored in picture signal storage medium 16 to
7 monitor 14 according to a selection signal input from selection part 18.

8 **[0018]** Multiplexer 10 allots ID information to the picture signals input in parallel from the
9 plurality of cameras 1 via the plurality of channels and multiplexes them in series. The ID
10 information is to indicate from which camera the input picture signal is input, and is represented by
11 a plurality of bits. The ID information and a picture signal corresponding thereto transmitted from
12 multiplexer 10 are stored in the picture signal storage medium 16 by controller 12.

13 **[0019]** If a user selects, through the selection part 18, a picture signal for reproduction, the
14 controller 12 looks for ID information stored in the picture signal storage medium 16 to locate the
15 picture signal which the user wants reproduced.

16 **[0020]** Fig. 3 illustrates an examples of ID information comprised of 2 bits for 4 channels and 3
17 bits for 8 channels. The ID information is configured in a common and general way so that the
18 number of IDs that can be configured by the various possible combinations of bits is identical to the
19 number of camera channels. Noise introduced into the ID information may cause selection of a
20 picture signal for reproduction different from the desired picture signal.

21 **[0021]** According to the present invention, ID information is constructed as shown in Fig. 2. As
22 illustrated, the number of bits constituting ID information according to the present invention is set
23 so that the number of available IDs is twice or more than the number of cameras 1. For example,

1 ID information is represented by at least 4 bits in the case of four cameras 1, and it is represented by
2 at least 6 bits in the case of eight cameras 1.

3 **[0022]** In the ID information illustrated in Fig. 2, the bits represented with lightface are bits for
4 proper ID information, and the bits represented with boldface are auxiliary bits. The proper ID bits
5 are information specific to each of the cameras to identify them, whereas the auxiliary bits are made
6 by reversing the proper ID bits. However, the auxiliary bits may be constructed identically to the
7 proper ID bits. The ID information is made by combination of the proper ID bits and the auxiliary
8 bits.

9 **[0023]** As an example, ID information for four channels, and four cameras 1, may be constructed
10 with a total of four bits: two of the bits are proper ID bits and the remaining two bits are auxiliary
11 bits. If the proper ID bits for one of the channels are 01, the auxiliary bits are 10, reversed from 01.
12 If the auxiliary bits 10 are combined with the proper ID bits 01, a complete ID is formed with 0110.
13 Accordingly, 16 IDs can be created by combining four bits but only four of the IDs can be used as
14 valid IDs.

15 **[0024]** As another example, ID information for eight channels, and eight cameras 1, may be
16 constructed with a total of six bits: three of the bits are proper ID bits and the remaining three bits
17 are auxiliary bits. If the proper ID bits for one of the channels are 010, the auxiliary bits are 101,
18 reversed from 010. Thus, an ID of 010101 is formed by combination of the proper ID bits and the
19 auxiliary bits. Accordingly, 64 IDs can be created by combining six bits but only eight of the IDs
20 can be used as valid ID information.

21 **[0025]** The ID information for four channels described above is formed by alternating the
22 auxiliary bits with the proper ID bits one by one whereas the ID information for eight channels
23 formed by combining the auxiliary bits and the proper ID bits utilizes the auxiliary bits as the three

1 least significant bits of the combination and the proper ID bits as the three most significant bits of
2 the combination. However, the combination of the proper ID bits and the auxiliary bits may be
3 arbitrarily made for the sake of user's convenience.

4 **[0026]** With this configuration, some of bit combinations for available IDs can only be used as
5 valid ID informations and a difference of two or more bits can be created between valid ID
6 informations. Accordingly, channel mixture resulting from incorrectly reading out the ID
7 information selected by the user can be prevented.

8 **[0027]** As described above, according to the present invention, there is provided a CCTV system
9 capable of preventing channels from being mixed while videos are being reproduced.

10 **[0028]** Although the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been disclosed for
11 illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and
12 substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed
13 in the accompanying claims.